

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-12 currently remain in the application. None of the claims is herein amended.

Regarding the matter of Paragraph 14 of the Official Letter, applicant hereby affirms that the joint inventors named in the present application were each under the obligation to assign every right regarding the base invention hereof to the assignee throughout the period of time relevant to this application.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Patent Abstract of Japan 10270129 (hereinafter referred to as "the cited reference"). The cited reference and the base invention of the present application ("the present invention"), however, relate to different technologies, having different objects and having different structures, in spite of seemingly similar aspects and components therebetween.

The present invention relates to electronic apparatus having a plurality of modules with different functions and specifications combined and electrically connected so as to form an apparatus of a desired kind and its object is to judge whether the modules are appropriately combined so as to form an apparatus of the desired kind. Explained more in detail, the object is to determine whether or not selected module substrates are connected properly, corresponding to a plurality of connectors of a base substrate and this object is accomplished by preliminarily registering each of the plurality of connectors provided to the base substrate and the corresponding module substrates. As a result of this invention, a same module may be used in common among a plurality of different types of apparatus with different sizes and/or specifications, depending on the functions.

The cited reference, by contrast, relates to a device having two substrates communicating to each other through a cable and its object is to monitor the normal connection of the cable between the substrates, or to monitor, for example, whether the cable is not connected incorrectly, whether there is no non-connection by the cable or whether the cable has not been cut. In order to achieve this object, connection ID numbers intrinsic to the connectors are multiplexed and the connection ID number of own substrate and the preliminarily set connection ID number of the "mating substrate" separated by the "received information separating parts 22A and 22B" are compared for monitoring the normality or erroneous connection.

This is believed to convince the Examiner that the cited reference and the present

invention have different objects and these different objects are being achieved by different means (methods and apparatus structures).

In summary, the cited reference does not relate to, disclose or even hint at any module substrates that are appropriately selected so as to form an apparatus of a desired type, much less a structure for judging whether or not such selected module substrates are properly connected correspondingly to a plurality of connectors of a base substrate. The cited reference is alleged to have the merits of eliminating the necessity of providing a special signal line in the cables or accessing the communication mating substrate, but these allegedly meritorious effects are foreign to the present invention, while the effects of the present invention are not to be expected from the cited reference.

It is therefore believed that the present invention is not even obvious in view of the cited reference, much less anticipated thereby, and hence that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenichi Nishimura

Registration No. 29,093

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BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP
500 12th Street, Suite 200
Oakland, California 94607
Telephone: (510) 663-1100
Telefax: (510) 663-0920